

**Washington, DC** - Congressman Mark Kirk praised the House Appropriations Committee decision to approve his amendment blocking federal funding for the infamous \$300 million “Bridge-to-Nowhere”. Kirk’s amendment prohibits federal officials from spending \$300 million for the construction of the project.

“Passage of my amendment sends a strong signal to the American people that the time for this expensive style of federal spending has passed,” said Kirk. “According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, 34 percent of our roads and over 100,000 bridges in America are in need of repair. Far fewer of these bridges and roads would be fixed if we allowed this project to move forward.”

The proposed Bridge-to-Nowhere would connect the Alaska town of Ketchikan to Gravina Island, population 50. The \$320 million Bridge would replace a \$6.00, 30 minute ferry ride with a structure nearly as long as the Golden Gate Bridge and standing 80 feet higher than the Brooklyn Bridge. It would connect Ketchikan with an island that has no stores, restaurants or paved roads.

Taxpayers for Common Sense compared the benefits of the project to the costly Boston “Big Dig” saying U.S. taxpayers will subsidize each Big Dig car trip by \$3, and they will subsidize the use of the Bridge-to-Nowhere by over \$40 *per trip*.

Last November, action was taken to remove the mandate from Congress to build the Bridge-to-Nowhere. But Alaskan officials announced that despite this wise action, Alaska would use its transportation money and spend \$300 million to build this discredited project.

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